

MID-ATLANTIC HYDRIC SOILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 1 & 2
Richmond, VA

Tuesday, July 1, 2003

Intro's-Updates

- Everyone briefly introduced themselves
- Ralph gave explanation of what the committee does
- Directory was updated - address sheet passed around
- Agenda for July 1 and July 2 reviewed
- Old Minutes were reviewed

Hydric Soils Book Update

- Ralph passed out copies of the new book for people to read and comment on
- Discussed recent editing, including fixing the grey spaces, spacing, and the chapters now numbered by sections
- The newest version of the book will appear on the web shortly
- Sections of the book reviewed
 - Acknowledgment - regular members check to make sure their name is listed
- A key has been inserted on pg. 8
- Proposed: Add land form information
- Pg. 13 Map: a yellow band has been placed around primary section "L" of Resource Regions
- Updated User notes and Glossary
- Spacing problem on pgs. 69 and 70 will be corrected
- People will be alerted when the update is coming out
- Proposed: take out table on pg. 69, or add a short description
- Def. Of prominent on pg. 75 will be changed

Indicator Graphs

- We looked at the indicator graphs on F3. We will try to use the same pattern throughout the book
- Lenore pointed out that on all but the organics, it needs to say whether the soil indicator was measured from the muck or the histic surface
- The first chart is the users guide
- Went over F13 - r.e. no minimum thickness

Soil ID Form

- Debated whether to use the new one, the old one, or some combination of the two
- the new one is the most inclusive, but may not be good if going from hydric to upland
- Suggestion: Improve the form by having the things everyone uses come first
- Ultimately decided to combine the new and old forms into one, on larger sheet of paper

- It was also suggested that we give short training sessions on how to properly fill out the new sheet

Printing

- Book Being printed by Lithocraft, but the prices have changed
- Ralph estimated that there were 136 pgs (68 pgs double sides) and 8.5" x 6" with pockets
- It will come shrink wrapped and three-hole punched
- The binders will be \$2.45 a piece extra
- We are ordering 1000 insides at \$8.00 a piece and 500 binders
- Allow 1 month for order

Red Parents Material Update

- National Technical Committee needs to know how the Indicator is being tested
a write-up is needed, so that the indicator is not deleted
- we need to get through two more wet seasons
- Ecotone wells: if wells work, then leave them
check them when going into wet season
- Suggestion: purchase rain gauges
- Get PA locations to John C., and we have someone to go up four times per year
- New NRCS or Corps in PA
- Martin Rabenhorst gave a Power Point Presentation on the TF2 study including:
problems with wells
what the soils look like
- If work done to maintain, then two years
- Not an official grant, but people from the committee dug pits and installed wells to determine if it was a 100% proof positive indicator
- We need a representative from PA for wells below Pottstown and get info downloaded

Hydric Soils Book Update

- Bruce gave a description of the book. Currently the editor has the book and it will take about 3 months to edit.
- It will be published by NRCS as a cd, and EPA is to be determined

Field Trips

- First we visited the Fort Lee Mitigation site on 295, a large non-tidal wetland. The soil was sandy and we examined its pH. Additionally, numerous redoximorphic features were observed, including Fe accumulations/depletions, Mn accumulations, and oxidized rhizospheres.
- Next we visited the Shirley Plantation, a recent mitigation site on borderline histic soil. The site contains dredge spoils of varying ages, one of which came from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Wednesday, July 2, 2003

Review of Yesterday's Field Trips

- Shirley was Sandy, but there was no problem meeting field indicator (S5)
- Difficulties at Fort Lee with regards to indicators

National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils Updates

- NTCHS has 2 new members: Ralph and David Zuberer, a Microbiologist from Texas A&M
- Discusses the Biological Zero definition issue/growing season
- A recommendation was made that as a regional committee, we express our dislike, and request that NTCHS change the definition
- People should e-mail their concerns to Marty (mr1@umail.umd.edu) and something will be put together by the end of the summer
- People need to notify NTCHS of plans to collect data for adoption of test indicators or they will be deleted. So far, not one has been adopted. Additionally, the question was posed: What indicators do people use for muck?

Web-site Update

- The Diagrams and 6th Wetlands Workshop info will be put up on the website
- It was proposed that we setup an interactive website.

ABLS Update

- Marty described the study and told people to be thinking about draft indicators
 - Role of Mesocosm in the study, Pt. electrodes inserted into mesocosm for Eh
 - Dextrose stable
 - surprisingly high iron content
- Phil Zurheide will finish the write-up in fall/winter

Training

- The TF7 indicator has the Red PM note on page 30, 48, and 57
LLR N R S

Piedmont Floodplain Soils Study Update

- Marty gave a PowerPoint presentation about the well study
 - Indicator of Reduction in Soil (IRIS)
 - Used PVC tubes painted in iron oxide paint, and put in the ground for 2 weeks. They were then examined, and there was a mysterious “weird black fading stuff”

Hydrology Workshop —Fall 2003

- We reviewed the tentative agenda
- Bruce will give Hydrology Tools Overview

Next Meetings

- January 13 and 14 in Farmville, VA
Manaris TF2 site and 2 HGM sites
- June 29 and 30 at Ed Stein's and Mary Anne Thiesing's sites in NY
- Marty gave a presentation on Redoximorphic features
- Ralph wants people to show up at Blackwater Wildlife Refuge on August 27 - Plant indicator status